

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA***

***San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - April 1, 2005**

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego today handed up a four-count indictment charging Alan Michael Donatz, the former General Manager for JetBlue Airlines in San Diego, with one count of Making a False Statement to a Federal Officer, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001, and three counts of Aiding and Abetting the Entry to the Secure Area of an Airport by False Pretense, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1036. The charges stem from Donatz' alleged false statements on an application to the San Diego Regional Airport Authority to obtain a security identification badge for his girlfriend. Possession of this security badge allowed unescorted access to restricted areas of the San Diego International Airport.

According to the indictment, Alan Michael Donatz held the position of General Manager at JetBlue Airlines at the San Diego International Airport from May 2003 until January 2004. The indictment further alleges that on June 11, 2003, DONATZ submitted an application for his girlfriend at the time to receive a security identification badge that allowed her unescorted access to the restricted areas of the airport. The application falsely claimed that DONATZ' girlfriend was an employee of JetBlue Airlines and that she had

an employment-related need to possess the security badge. DONATZ' girlfriend was not then, nor had she ever been, an employee of JetBlue Airlines or any other employer at the San Diego International Airport. DONATZ' girlfriend used the security badge on multiple occasions to enter secure areas of the San Diego International Airport.

In announcing today's indictment, United States Attorney Lam said, "It is astonishing that in today's world an airline employee would intentionally try to circumvent airport security. We will continue to prosecute people who create these security risks."

Michael J. Aguilar, Transportation Security Administration Federal Security Director added, "TSA appreciates the United States Attorney's Office and the FBI's cooperation and support in helping to secure our nation's airports and the public's safety."

FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel Dzwilewski commented, "Today's indictment demonstrates the JTTF's dedication to maintaining safe air travel for the public."

The case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, San Diego Division, working cooperatively with the Transportation Security Administration.

## **DEFENDANT**

Alan Michael Donatz

## **SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

- Count 1: False Statement to a Federal Officer, a felony.  
The charge of making a false statement carries a maximum penalty of 5 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine and 3 years' supervised release.
- Counts 2-4: Entry by False Pretense to the Secure Area of Any Airport, a misdemeanor.  
This charge carries a maximum penalty of 6 months' imprisonment, a \$5000 fine, and a term of supervised release not to exceed one year.

## **AGENCIES**

Federal Bureau of Investigation, San Diego Division.  
Transportation Security Administration

**An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**